



City of Sidney, Nebraska

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May 7, 2007

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FCC-MAILROOM

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 02-60 (Rural Health Care Mechanism Pilot Program)

Dear Office of the Secretary:

Perhaps no more critical issue exists in rural America today than the survival and viability of our health care system. I fully support the Rural Nebraska Healthcare Network and the possibilities of attaining funding through the FCC's Pilot Program. With this funding you would promote continued collaboration and development of the Rural Healthcare in the remote areas of the Panhandle of Nebraska.

As the City Manager / Economic Development Director of Sidney, Nebraska it is my job to help promote continued success for our community. I see this particular funding opportunity securing a strong health care future for Memorial Health Center and the surrounding panhandle Hospitals within the RNHN.

I have lived in the Panhandle area for 50 years and have experienced the challenges of having hundreds of miles between health providers and access to care. The need for connectivity is crucial. We have learned how to survive the distance, but with today's health care needs and people living longer, this FCC Pilot Program could be a chance of a lifetime to supply an unbelievable opportunity **to** propel healthcare to the standards needed. It will no doubt save lives and provide preventative healthcare measures for our population for today and tomorrow's generation.

Living and working in the panhandle of Nebraska and seeing an opportunity like the "FCC **Rural** Health Care Pilot Program" can truly impact our lives. The RNHN has been collaborating for many years and they would be the ultimate example for your program.

Sidney, Nebraska is the catalyst for job growth in our entire region **as** we have created an economy that supports the job base for many of our neighboring rural communities. In **fact** Sidney was named one **of** America's Top 100 Rural Communities (under **50,000** population) for our progressive development. We need continued health care improvement to continue our path of success. I want to "thank you" for your time and consideration of this written request.

Sincerely,

Gary Person
City Manager

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

Cc: Honorable Kevin J. Martin
cc: Honorable Michael J. Copps
cc: Honorable J o n a h S. Adelstein
cc: Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate
cc: Honorable Robert M. McDowell
cc: Jeremy Marcus, Telecommunications Access Policy Division; Wireline Competition Bureau
cc: Thomas Bnckley, Telecommunications Access Policy Division; Wireline Competition Bureau